

Message

**From:** ECOS [ecos@ecos.org]  
**Sent:** 5/17/2019 6:09:46 PM  
**To:** Beck, Nancy [Beck.Nancy@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** ECOS Engages on U.S. EPA Funding, Produced Water Study, & OECA Guidance; Seeks Fall Meeting Workshop & Innovation Video Topics

ECOS Engages on U.S. EPA Funding, Produced Water Study, & OECA Guidance; Seeks Fall Meeting Workshop & Innovation Video Topics

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## ECOSWIRE

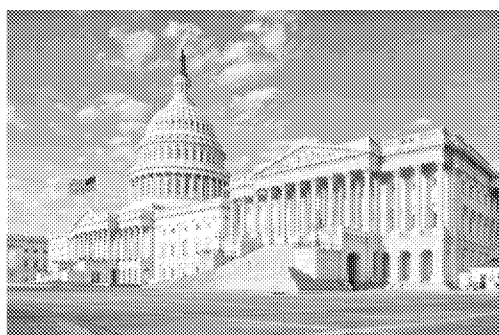
Friday, May 17, 2019

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## **House Appropriators Boost U.S. EPA Budget \$672M in Markup**

On May 15, the House Appropriations Committee's panel on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies released its draft funding bill for FY20. The bill funds U.S. EPA at \$9.52B, a \$672M increase from the FY19 level. The State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) account is increased \$511M from FY19 to \$4.64B. Further funding details include:

- \$3.1B for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, an increase of \$345M above the FY19 enacted level
- \$70M for new grant programs targeting drinking water contaminants like lead, nitrates, and other health hazards
- \$105M for Brownfields cleanups, a \$20.8 increase above FY19.

The bill also includes notable increases for EPA's work on PFAS, Superfund, and compliance monitoring and enforcement. "We are setting out a very different vision than the Trump administration's approach to the environment and public lands," said House Appropriations Chairwoman Nita Lowey (D-NY).

The Senate will release its draft appropriations bill later this summer, setting the stage for conference negotiations. [McAleer]

## **ECOS Advocates for STAG Funding in Senate Budget Comments**

ECOS today will submit written testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee's panel on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies urging strong FY20 appropriations for U.S. EPA. Specifically, ECOS seeks sustained State and Tribal Assistance Grants and other key funding, as well as no rescissions of prior-year funds.

"ECOS has documented that the federal government provides, on average, 27 percent of our agencies' budgets," the testimony notes. "Without that money, state agencies would find it more challenging to properly administer federal environmental laws, improve public health, and protect the environment. ECOS therefore asks that [FY20] appropriations provide sustained support to programs that advance the well-being of our communities."

The letter will be posted to ECOS' [FY 2020 budget page](#). [McAleer]

## **U.S. EPA Seeks Input by July 1 on Draft Produced Water Study**

### ***ECOS SGC to Discuss Report on June 26 Webinar***

***Area of Focus:*** [Shale Gas Caucus](#)

U.S. EPA seeks input on a [draft study](#) that examines, among other things, possible regulatory changes to allow discharges of oil and gas extraction wastewater to surface waters as a way to encourage beneficial reuse of the water.

Since initiating the *Study of Oil and Gas Extraction Wastewater Management* a year ago, EPA has gathered input from state, tribal, industrial, academic, environmental, and public

health entities. While many parties have expressed support of approaches presented to boost reuse, others reportedly have raised environmental and permitting concerns.

The agency will accept input on the draft until **July 1** [at this email address](#) and plans to finalize the study in summer 2019. EPA will determine at that time what, if any, future agency actions are appropriate to encourage the beneficial reuse of oil and gas extraction wastewater under the Clean Water Act. This could include regulatory and/or non-regulatory approaches.

The draft study will be the focus of a **June 26** webinar of the ECOS Shale Gas Caucus. Contact [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS to share your feedback or make suggestions for the webinar. [Parisien]

## **ECOS Collecting State Feedback on OECA Guidance on Coordination with States**

ECOS seeks state feedback on draft guidance issued by the U.S. EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance on *Enhancing Planning and Communication between the EPA and States in Civil Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Work*. EPA released the guidance for state review and input in April and seeks comments by **June 12** (see May 13 *Federal Register* [notice](#)).

Please reach out to [Connor MacCartney](#) of ECOS with any questions or comments. [MacCartney]



## State News You Can Use

Washington Resists U.S. EPA Revocation of State Water  
Quality Standards

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Nebraska Publishes Flood Safety Dashboard

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Oregon, City of Portland to provide \$24M in Superfund  
Agreement with EPA

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## ECOS Meetings

**Meeting ECOS Invites Registrants, Sponsors to STEP  
Meeting on Technology**

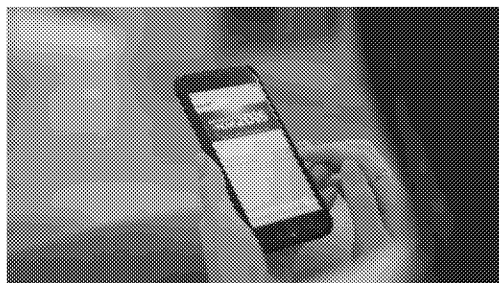


Registration is open for the July 10 ECOS State Environmental Protection (STEP) Meeting

in Washington, DC, on innovative technology helping state environmental agencies to accomplish their missions. This year's meeting, *From the Flintstones to the Jetsons: How Technology is Transforming Environmental Protection*, will feature an array of lively panel discussions, as well as keynotes from Google and Microsoft.

The Marriott Marquis group rate is available until **June 18** or sellout of the block, and the advance registration discount ends **June 26**. To register and stay up to date on the details of the meeting, please visit the [ECOS website](#). If you have questions regarding the meeting or [sponsorship opportunities](#), please contact [Kelly Poole](#) or [Connor MacCartney](#). [MacCartney]

## States Asked to Notify ECOS of Intent to Submit Innovation Video by May 31



If you enjoyed the state innovation videos featured at the last ECOS Fall Meeting, you're in luck! Based on popular demand ECOS will again run our annual State Program Innovation Award program via video presentation and live vote at the **September 24-26** Fall Meeting in Seattle.

Each state may submit one video on one innovation, and we're aiming for full participation. Your submission should contain the name of your program, an overview of your innovative program or approach, and results to date. Be as creative with the video as you'd like. You're welcome to report from the field, add video feed and music or sound effects, and involve your staff.

We only ask that the ECOS member appear at least briefly on camera to describe the innovation and limit the video to between 90 seconds and two minutes. A few video tips: shoot the video in HD, or 720p minimum, with horizontal frame; use a tripod for stability, clear lighting, and high-quality audio; and avoid reading from paper with head tilted downward.

Please contact [Nia Duke](#) by **May 31** to notify ECOS of your intent to participate and planned topic. Submit your video using this Dropbox [link](#) by **July 12**, and contact Nia anytime with questions. View last year's submissions [here](#). Thanks in advance for your participation! [Parisien]

## **Members and Alumni Invited to Submit Fall Meeting Workshop Topics by May 31**

Do you have expertise or a special talent that would benefit your state counterparts and others in the environmental protection field? If so, we invite you lead a workshop at the ECOS Fall Meeting in Seattle.

Members will recall that at the Spring Meeting, ECOS Secretary-Treasurer Patrick McDonnell of Pennsylvania taught a session on improvisation to promote active listening, and Jim Kenney of New Mexico, a certified yoga instructor, promoted fitness and mindfulness with an early morning stretch class. We will bring back these highlights in the fall but want to expand the list of offerings given the popularity of the format. Workshops on any useful skill, policy matter, or management approach are welcome.

To volunteer to lead a workshop, please reach out to [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS by **May 31**. [Parisien]

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## **Need-to-Know News in Water & Land and Waste**

### **Organizations Mark Infrastructure Week with Stormwater Funding Gap Study, Wheeler Remarks**

*Area of Focus:* [Water](#)

A new Water Environment Federation Stormwater Institute (SWI) [report](#) that surveys municipal stormwater systems estimates a \$7.5B annual funding gap in the sector. The

shortfall reportedly is just one of a growing set of gaps in water infrastructure funding. SWI also notes that stormwater is the only growing source of water pollution in many of the country's waterways.

SWI released the report to coincide with Infrastructure Week, an annual event held by organizations, companies, and cities pushing policymakers to rebuild and modernize America's infrastructure. On May 16, U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler gave opening remarks at a Bipartisan Policy Center event as part of Infrastructure Week and addressed EPA's role in building infrastructure systems for the future. Wheeler touted EPA's efforts to reform its permitting practices, create new water funding programs, and issue an upcoming update to the Lead and Copper Rule. [Piper]

## **U.S. EPA Adds Sites in Seven States & Territories to Superfund List**

*Area of Focus: Land and Waste*

This week, U.S. EPA announced its addition of seven sites to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) where releases of contamination pose human health and environmental risks. The NPL serves as the basis for prioritizing EPA Superfund cleanup funding and enforcement actions.

The following sites are being added to the NPL:

- Magna Metals in Cortlandt Manor, New York
- PROTECO in Peñuelas, Puerto Rico
- Shaffer Equipment/Arbuckle Creek Area in Minden, West Virginia
- Cliff Drive Groundwater Contamination in Logansport, Indiana
- McLouth Steel Corp in Trenton, Michigan
- Sporlan Valve Plant #1 in Washington, Missouri
- Copper Bluff Mine in Hoopa, California

For more information on the sites, see [here](#). [Parisien]

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## E-Enterprise for the Environment

*E-Enterprise*

### Online Permitting Assistance Tool Now Available for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills

As part of an E-Enterprise initiative, U.S. EPA has released a Regulation Navigation (Reg Nav) tool for Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources **Subpart WWW: Municipal Solid Waste Landfills**. The new feature, along with four previous tools created for five other air quality regulations, uses online, interactive software programs that help owners and operators determine their personalized air quality regulatory requirements by answering questions about their facilities.

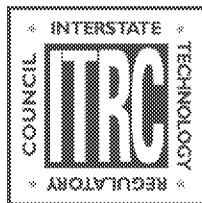
More information on tools is available on the [E-Enterprise website](#) and [U.S. EPA's website](#).  
[Graves/Poole]

### NPDES Electronic Permitting Webinar Recording Now Posted

An E-Enterprise-sponsored webinar held on May 2 on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) electronic permitting practices is now available for viewing [online](#).

The call featured discussion of various online NPDES permitting and reporting activities. Speakers from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and U.S. EPA's Office of Water and Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance presented. [Graves]

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## ITRC

*Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council*

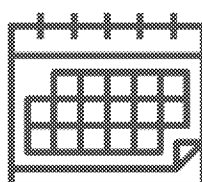
### **ITRC Opens Registration for Two New Teams: Resiliency and Vapor Intrusion**

The Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council (ITRC) is pleased to open membership for two new teams of experts from around the nation:

- [Green and Sustainable Remediation \(GSR\) with Resiliency to Extreme Weather Events and Wildfires](#)
- [Vapor Intrusion Mitigation Training](#)

Both teams will have their first member call in June, and participation is open to all active members or interested parties. Learn more [here](#), and register for the teams [here](#). [Olonoff]

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## **Upcoming Events**

### **ECOS on Product Testing for Toxic Substances**



The ECOS Toxic Substances Reduction Workgroup will hold a call on **ECOS** product testing on **May 20 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**. Participants will hear from several states on their efforts regarding product law oversight, including opportunities for information sharing and collaboration.

If interested, email [Sarah Grace Longworth](#) of ECOS for call information. [Longworth]

## **U.S. EPA on Wildfire Smoke**

U.S. EPA will hold a webinar on **May 21 at 1 p.m. Eastern** to highlight the agency's tools and resources available to provide public health guidance and education before, during, and after wildfire events.

For more information and to register, see [here](#). [Longworth]

## **U.S. EPA on Coastal Nutrient Management**

U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development will host its next monthly Tools and Resources Webinar on **May 22 at 3-4 p.m. Eastern**. The webinar will focus on nutrient management in coastal communities and highlight a project on which EPA partnered in Cape Cod to launch an [Advanced Septic Systems Nitrogen Sensor Challenge](#), Social-Ecological Systems Research, and the Nutrients Translational Science Pilot. EPA's Tim Gleason will present on the results of the challenge and broader nutrients research efforts that can be applied to other communities with similar challenges.

To register, see [here](#). [Longworth]

## **U.S. EPA on Sustainable Materials Management**

U.S. EPA will host two webinars on sustainable materials management. The first is on **May 23 at 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Eastern** and will focus on the impacts of global materials use. Information available [here](#). The second is on **June 20 at 1-2 p.m. Eastern** and will focus

on the agency's planning for natural disaster debris guidance. Find out more and register [here](#). [Longworth]

## **NEWMOA on PFAS**

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) will host two upcoming PFAS webinars. The [first](#) webinar, planned for **May 23 at 2-3:30 p.m. Eastern**, will focus on Vermont's soil PFAS background study. The [second](#) webinar, planned for **June 6 at 1:30-3 p.m. Eastern**, will focus on fish tissue study results in New Jersey and New York.

Contact [Jennifer Griffith](#) of NEWMOA with questions. [Longworth]

## **ECOS Shale Gas Caucus on Methane Strides**



Join the ECOS Shale Gas Caucus for the next **E C O S** in its 2019 meeting and webinar series on Air & Methane, Alternative Compliance, & Produced Water. The webinar, planned for **May 29 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern**, will center on strides made by states and industry to reduce methane from oil and gas operations. Topics will include air quality improvements registered since the launch of Colorado's oil and gas inspection program and industry's Natural Gas Sustainability Initiative and voluntary environmental, social, governance, and sustainability metrics template.

A calendar invitation has been sent to SGC members. If you would like to participate in the webinar or join the SGC, please contact [Lia Parisien](#) of ECOS. [Parisien]

## **U.S. EPA on PFAS Analytic Tools**

U.S. EPA will host a webinar for states on **May 30 at 2 p.m. Eastern** to share information on PFAS analytic tools it is developing and to seek state input on the resources. If you would like to participate, please contact [Carolyn Hanson](#) of ECOS. [Parisien]

## **U.S. EPA on CompTox Chemicals Dashboard**

U.S. EPA will host a webinar on **June 3 at 2-3 p.m. Eastern** to demonstrate the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard and the RapidTox workflow. The dashboard is an online tool that integrates biological, chemical, and computational information to help scientists and decision-makers evaluate chemicals. The webinar will include a presentation followed by interactive demonstrations on how the resource can help states in several problem formulations like emergency response.

Register [here](#). [Longsworth]


## U.S. EPA on Superfund Risk Management Tools

U.S. EPA's Office of Site Remediation Enforcement invites ECOS members to join a listening session on **June 4 at 11 a.m.** on Recommendation 22 of the agency's Superfund Task Force Recommendations, which encourages exploration of Environmental Liability Transfer (ELT) approaches and other risk management tools during cleanups. The session will highlight EPA's use of "look first" provisions in Superfund settlements and discuss their potential benefit when part of an environmental response transfer arrangement.

Registration and information on the listening session is available [here](#). The registration form provides the option to either make live verbal remarks or to listen online. Individuals wishing to provide live verbal remarks are invited to do so, and these remarks can be sent to EPA via the listening session [email address](#). [Parisien]

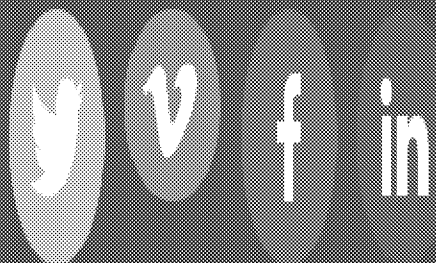
## ITRC on PFAS Contamination



ITRC invites state staff and others to attend  an in-person PFAS training class in Raleigh, North Carolina on **June 21**. Taught by environmental experts, the class will focus on PFAS regulations, site characterization, risk assessment, treatment technologies, and more. The class is free for state regulators and many others.

The class is free for states, and travel scholarships are available for state staff traveling more than 50 miles. Please contact Tadbir Singh for more information.

Learn more and register [here](#). [Olonoff]



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